

What is claimed is:

1. A programmable logic controller comprising:
  - a backplane connector connected to the programmable logic controller;
  - an audio generator operably connected to the backplane connector; and
  - an output from the programmable logic controller configured to output an audio signal generated by the audio generator.
2. The programmable logic controller of claim 1, further comprising control circuitry interfacing between the backplane connector and the audio generator.
3. The programmable logic controller of claim 1, wherein the output includes screw terminals.
4. The programmable logic controller of claim 1, further comprising an indicator operably connected to the audio generator and configured to indicate whether the audio output is operating correctly or is in a fault condition.
5. The programmable logic controller of claim 1, further comprising a recorder operably connected to the audio generator and configured to have the audio generator output a recorded signal.
6. The programmable logic controller of claim 1, further comprising an amplifier configured to amplify an audio signal generated by the audio generator.

7. The programmable logic controller of claim 1, further comprising a step up transformer configured to increase an audio signal generated by the audio generator.
8. The programmable logic controller of claim 1, wherein the output is configured to output a signal of at least one of about 1, 10, 25, 70.7 and 100 Vrms.
9. The programmable logic controller of claim 1, further comprising a speaker system operably connected to the output.
10. The programmable logic controller of claim 1, further comprising an input configured to input a signal to the programmable logic controller.
11. The programmable logic controller of claim 10, wherein the programmable logic controller is configured to cause the audio generator to generate predetermined signals based on the input signal.
12. The programmable logic controller of claim 10, wherein the signal input to the programmable logic controller associated with a sensor.
13. The programmable logic controller of claim 12, wherein the sensor is configured to sense at least one of fire, heat and smoke.
14. A programmable logic controller comprising:
  - means for generating an audio signal;
  - means for controlling the generating means;
  - means for connecting the generating means to the programmable logic controller; and
  - means for outputting the audio signal,wherein the generating means, the controlling means, and the connecting means are contained on the programmable logic controller.

15. The programmable logic controller of claim 14, further comprising means for amplifying the audio signal.
16. The programmable logic controller of claim 14, further comprising means for indicating whether the generating means is functioning or in a fault condition.
17. The programmable logic controller of claim 14, further comprising means for recording an audio tone and causing the audio generating means to output the recorded audio tone.
18. A method of generating an audio tone, comprising the steps of:  
  
interfacing control circuitry with a programmable logic controller and an audio generator;  
  
generating an audio signal with the audio generator; and  
  
outputting the audio signal from the programmable logic controller.
19. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of amplifying the audio signal.
20. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of indicating whether the audio generator is functioning.
21. The method of claim 18, further comprising connecting the programmable logic controller to a speaker system.
22. The method of claim 21, wherein the speaker system is connected to the programmable logic controller via screw terminals.
23. The method of claim 18, further comprising inputting an input signal to the programmable logic controller and generating an audio signal associated with the input signal.

24. The method of claim 18, further comprising recording an audio signal on to the programmable logic controller and outputting the recorded signal.